

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 12 and 20 have been amended. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 12 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shiiki et al. (US 2002/0020879), hereinafter "Shiiki"; and claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiiki, in view of Wolf, *Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era*, 1990, Volume II, page 146, hereinafter "Wolf." Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter is allowable for the reasons stated below.

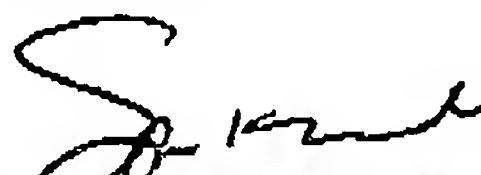
With respect to independent claims 12 and 20, the claimed invention includes, *inter alia*, "a silicide section positioned in a trough in one of a plurality of back-end-of-line (BEOL) layers[.]" (Claim 12, emphasis added; similarly claimed in claim 20). Resistor 2 of Shiiki is not positioned in a trough. Rather, resistor 2 of Shiiki is positioned on the top surface of the insulating film 3 on the active region. (See, e.g., ¶ 0051, FIG. 1A.)

Dependent claims 13-19 are believed allowable for the same reason stated above, as well as for their additional features.

In view of the foregoing, the claimed invention is allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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